

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:

Inventor: Mark A. Reiley

Application No.: 10/657,866

Filed: September 9, 2003

Title: **METHOD FOR REPLACING A NATURAL
FACET JOINT WITH A PROSTHESIS
HAVING AN ARTIFICIAL FACET JOINT
STRUCTURE (*Amended*)**

Confirmation No.: 2080

Examiner: ISABELLA, David J.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Customer No. 21971

FILED ELECTRONICALLY ON: February 15, 2006

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37C.F.R. §1.111

M/S Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Introductory Comments:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2005. The shortened statutory period for response expires on February 15, 2006.

Prior to reconsidering this application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

Amendment to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper;

A **Claim Listing** is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), which reflects the current status of the claims and proposed amendments to the claims; the claim listing begins on page 3 of this paper; and

Remarks/Arguments in response to the Office Action and accompanying the amendments made herein begin on page 8 of this paper.